

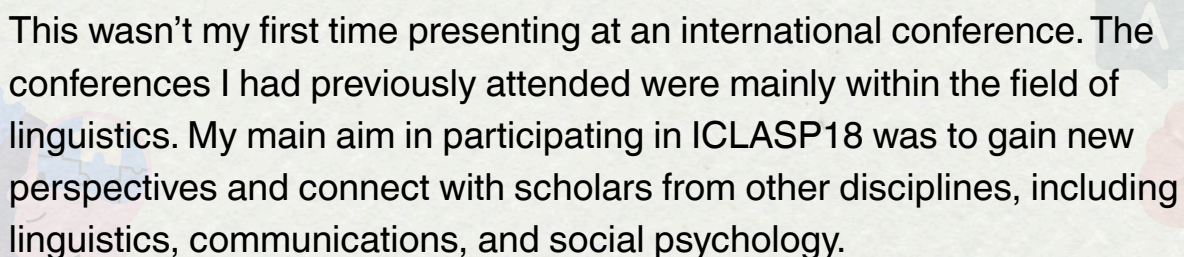
Irene Tan Liang Kheng (ITLK)
Conference Grant Recipient
Ms Lin Ming'en Evangeline
English Language & Literature,
Doctor of Philosophy



Evangeline Lin, a PhD student from the English Language & Literature Department was awarded the Irene Tan Lian Kheng (ITLK) Conference Grant. With the support of this grant, Evangeline participated in the 18th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP18), held in Tallinn, Estonia, from 12 to 16 June 2024. At the conference, Evangeline presented a paper entitled, “English and Social Mobility: Accounts from Cambodia”.

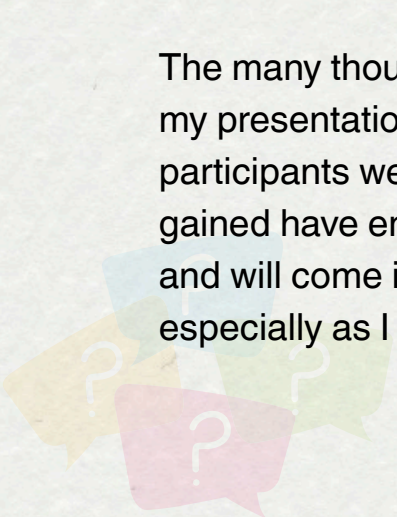
We caught up with Evangeline to hear about her takeaway from the conference and her advice for someone planning to present at an international conference for the first time.

Hi Evangeline, what was your main aim at the conference?



This wasn't my first time presenting at an international conference. The conferences I had previously attended were mainly within the field of linguistics. My main aim in participating in ICLASP18 was to gain new perspectives and connect with scholars from other disciplines, including linguistics, communications, and social psychology.

Can you share how you benefited from this experience?



The many thought-provoking, valuable questions and comments I received at my presentation, as well as the concepts in presentations by other conference participants were highly relevant to my own research. All the new ideas I gained have enriched my knowledge and grasp of my own research topics and will come in extremely useful as I continue to conduct my research – especially as I analyse my data and write my discussion.

One of the most valuable aspects of attending international conferences is the opportunity for in-depth conversations. Was this true for you?

Absolutely! The conversations with other scholars regarding my research continued beyond my presentation. Prior to the start of ICLASP, I was also invited by the conference organisers to submit my paper to the Journal of Language and Social Psychology, which is associated with the conference. The paper I submitted will undergo peer review, and if accepted, it will be published in 2025.

ICLASP18 had a relatively small group of 118 participants, giving the conference a close-knit atmosphere. I was rather sad when ICLASP18 came to a close, as I had learnt so much and thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my experience at the conference. I had also made many new friends and gotten to know potential future collaborators.

What advice would you give to someone preparing to present at an international conference for the first time?

I would recommend speaking with supervisors, colleagues, or friends who attended conferences before. More specifically, aim to find out more not just about the scope of the conference, but also about the active community of scholars who make up the conference association. Sometimes, the work might be excellent, but in my opinion, the people one meets can make or break the experience.

Another piece of advice I can offer to first time conference presenters is to focus on sharing the unique findings of their study rather than spending too much time on the literature review, which most people can read about on their own.

Lastly, don't worry about being 'evaluated'. Instead, treat the presentation as a friendly sharing from which they can gain additional perspectives and constructive feedback on their work – most people in the audience are usually friendlier and more supportive than they might think!

